

to the bipartisan coalition of Senators that succeeded in reviving their efforts to pass a comprehensive immigration reform package this year.

I applaud the decision made by my colleagues in the other Chamber to bring their bill back to the floor for debate. There will be an opportunity for amendments, from both sides of the aisle, in order to craft a final version of this legislation.

It is also time for the House to get an immigration reform package to the floor so that the President will get a bill to his desk soon.

In southern Arizona, immigration reform is not just a political debate. Funding that this bill promises will go directly to the front lines, to places like Douglas, Elfrida, Bisbee, Tubac, and Naco. Passing comprehensive immigration reform will ensure that in Arizona and elsewhere along the border our communities will have the resources available to secure our border and relieve communities from the burden of illegal immigration.

My district knows first hand what happens when people in Washington turn their heads away from the issue of illegal immigration. I urge all of us to keep working toward legislation that will create a comprehensive immigration policy.

We must work alongside our colleagues in the Senate to craft a solution that is in the best interest for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT.
MATTHEW KUGLICS

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero from my district, Staff Sgt. Matthew Kuglics. Matthew was one of two airmen who died in Kirkuk, Iraq when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. He had just celebrated his 25th birthday. I ask the House of Representatives to honor this courageous young man who died in service to his country. Matthew grew up in North Canton and grad-

uated from Green High School where he played soccer. His family, friends and loved ones fondly recall his sense of humor and contagious smile. After graduation he joined the Air Force and was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base and was on his second tour of Iraq as an agent within the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his mother and father, Donna and Les Kuglics, his sister Emily and all of his family and friends who mourn the loss of this incredible young man. The day they had to say farewell to Matthew was probably the hardest day the family has faced and my thoughts and prayers go out to them. Matthew was laid to rest on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. I thank Matthew for the sacrifice he made by answering the call to fight for our freedom and security.

HONORING TOM JURICH, 2007 ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Athletic Director of the Year, Tom Jurich. While it has taken 10 years at the helm of the Cardinal athletics program for him to be honored as the nation's finest AD, in my hometown of Louisville, this has been a well-known fact almost from the start.

When Tom Jurich first arrived on the University of Louisville campus in 1997, he took control of a program with little to brag about off the hardwood. Today, the Cardinal baseball team will play in the college world series—an amazing achievement for a club that had never played a single post season game prior to Jurich's arrival. Today's appearance makes UofL one of just two schools to have played in the Final Four, a BCS bowl, and the Final Four in the last 3 years.

While these accomplishments are astounding, they are the norm for a leader who regularly achieves the impossible.

Leading a top 10 track program just a few years after the team, in Jurich's words, couldn't "have finished third in its own intramural meet before." Impossible.

Winning the Orange Bowl a decade after the team failed to win a second game. Impossible.

Enticing Rick Pitino to town just 4 years after his historic run at UK. Incredibly impossible.

But, with Tom Jurich, nothing is impossible in Louisville.

This year he fielded new teams in four sports, sent nine teams to NCAA tournaments, and UofL—once a school that struggled to comply with Title IX regulations—now exceeds those regulations.

For all the awards, all the accolades, and all the accomplishments, however, Tom Jurich's greatest calling card is his consistent recognition that he is dealing not just with athletes, but with student athletes. Half of his student athletes receive at least a B average.

His commitment to the whole University has consistently been displayed through his dynamic partnership with President James Ramsey. Their leadership has helped transform the campus's landscape and level of pride, facilitating UofL's shift from a largely commuter school to a top notch higher-learning institution capable of attracting the brightest students in the nation and around the globe. With the openings of Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, Jim Patterson Field, Cardinal Park, the most modern practice facilities in the nation, and the announcement of a new basketball arena, the momentum of the Athletic Department has helped spur a decade of unparalleled growth throughout the University.

Today, as the Cardinal baseball team embarks on another new chapter for the University of Louisville, it is clear that under Tom Jurich's leadership more and greater milestones lay ahead for the athletic department, the University, and the city of Louisville. I am happy he calls Louisville his home, awed by his success, and proud to have the opportunity to congratulate Tom Jurich, 2007 Athletic Director of the Year. Go Cards!